

Wycombe falter after Maidstone's quick reply

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WAND 1 : MAIDSTONE UTD 1

AFTER flashes of fine form early on, Wycombe could force only a draw against Maidstone in a Loakes Park game which got progressively less entertaining.

Wycombe Wanderers : Bunting; Beck, Sewell; Gale, Royston, Baker; Worley, Lewis, Lowen, Balson, Horseman.

Maidstone United : Balderston; Baker, Shed; Dipper, Leonard, Davies; Candey, Sunnucks, Clay, Mellington, Dawe.

Referee : Mr. H E Jones, London

Wycombe dictated the early play, mounting a succession of promising raids which had the Maidstone defence in trouble.

Worley paved the way for the opening goal after eight minutes, pushing over a neat centre which LOWEN headed unhurriedly into the net.

A few minutes later left winger Dawe, the visitors' most dangerous forward, got the ball in for Maidstone, only to be ruled off-side.

Determined play by their speedy wingers, Dawe and Candy, enabled Maidstone to hit back strongly and in the 15th minute CANDY seized on a through pass from Clay to level the scores with the home backs out of position.

BAD LUCK

Horseman, who showed good form on the left wing, deserved better luck with one tremendous long-range shot.

Then, in a Maidstone counter-attack, Candy flashed in a shot which Bunting saved well and a little later right half Dipper sent the ball just over the bar after breaking through.

Wycombe rallied again just before half-time and shots from Lowen and Balson were well saved by Balderston.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Maidstone Utd. 1.

An electrifying run by Candey breeched the Wycombe defence in the first minute of the second half, but Bunting just managed to block his final shot.

Maidstone looked the more purposeful in attack and Bunting was injured after making two lucky saves from Candey. He was able to resume after treatment.

Balson missed the best chance of the match for Wycombe after a breakaway, and Horseman was unlucky when his fierce drive was stopped on the goal line by left half Davies.

With neither forward line showing sufficient urgency to press home attacks, the game deteriorated into a stalemate.

Twice Wycombe missed easy chances when Balson failed to connect with an easy pass from Lowen, and again when Lowen shot wide after dribbling through on his own.

And Lowen failed again in the last few minutes when he broke through only to shoot tamely straight at the goal-keeper.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1
MAIDSTONE 1

Wycombe 1 Maidstone 1

AFTER two early goals had given promise of a scoring spree, Wycombe Wanderers' Isthmian League game with Maidstone degenerated into a stalemate of missed chances.

Wycombe opened the scoring in the eighth minute, Lowen heading in Worley's cross. Maidstone equalised seven minutes later through the dashing Candey.